

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 01865 160859Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
-----160901Z 054966 /11

O R 160827Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5268  
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL  
SECDEF WASHDC  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ  
DIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 1865

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: EG, IS, MASS  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SALE OF MIRAGE AIRCRAFT BY ISRAEL TO ECUADOR

REF: QUITO 1624

1. PRESENT IAF ORDER OF BATTLE INCLUDES THIRTY (30) MIRAGE III AND FORTY-TWO (42) MIRAGE V. THREE OF THE III MODELS ARE CONFIGURED FOR PHOTO-RECONNAISSANCE. TWO III AND SIX V MODELS ARE DUAL COCKPIT.
2. THE MIRAGE III C'S AND B'S WERE PROCURED FROM FRANCE AND ARE APPROACHING THE END OF THEIR USEFUL LIFE.
3. THE MIRAGE V'S ARE MUCH NEWER AND WERE ASSEMBLED

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(50 TOTAL) BY ISRAEL AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES (IAI) WITH THE LAST ONE ROLLING OUT IN 1974.

4. PRIMARY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO MODELS IS THE GREATER EXTERNAL CARRYING CAPABILITY OF V MODEL AND 1000 LITER EXTRA FUEL. NEITHER MODEL HAS WORKING RADAR, ORIGINAL CYRANO RADAR HAS LONG AGO BEEN SCRAPPED

BY THE IAF.

5. ALTHOUGH THE MIRAGE V WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR AN AIR TO GROUND MISSION AT PRESENT BOTH THE III AND V ARE USED SOLELY AS DAY FIGHTERS FOR THE AIR TO AIR ROLE.

6. THE GOI HAS MADE PREVIOUS PROPOSALS TO SELL SOME OF THEIR USED MIRAGE AIRCRAFT. SINGAPORE WAS OFFERED A NUMBER AS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR KFIR. THEY ACCEPTED NEITHER, CHOOSING THE F5E.

7. WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT THIRD COUNTRIES HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN TRADING-IN USED MIRAGE ON A KFIR SALE. HOWEVER, MOST PROSPECTIVE CUSTOMERS ARE FROM SOUTH AMERICA AND WOULD BE IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS ECUADOR.

8. ONE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION IS AUSTRALIA. THEY ALSO HAVE AN AGING MIRAGE FLEET AND HAVE SHOWN SOME INTEREST IN THE KFIR. IN ADDITION A POSSIBLE RESALE OF 6 A4E SKYHAWKS FROM THE IAF TO AUSTRALIA IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED WHICH COULD BE A FIRST STEP TO FURTHER TRANSFERS.  
DUNNIGAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE SALE OF MIRAGE AIRCRAFT BY ISRAEL TO ECUADOR  
**TAGS:** MASS, EG, IS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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